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Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KUALA 01432 060242 Z

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 COME-00 INT-08 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 OMB-01 RSR-01

/060 W
---------- 123674
R 050335 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3979

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 1432

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: ETRD
SUBJECT: HARDWOOD EXPORTS: WEST MALAYSIAN BAN ON EXPORTS TO CONTINUE, NEW REGULATIONS FOR TIMBER EXPORTERS

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 0852

GOM MINISTER PRIMARY INDUSTRIES, TAIB MAHMUD, STATED APRIL 2 GOM WOULD NOT BE PRESSURED INTO LIFTING BAN ON EXPORT OF TEN TYPES OF LOGS AND IT IS GOVERNMENT POLICY TO ENSURE THAT NEEDS OF DOMESTIC MARKET ARE MET FIRST. THIS WAS IN RESPONSE TO CLAIM BY LOGGERS THAT THEY COULD NOT FIND LOCAL BUYERS FOR THEIR OUTPUT. TAIB SAID NO AMOUNT OF PILING LOGS BY LOGGERS TO JUSTIFY THIS CLAIM COULD MAKE HIM CHANGE HIS MIND UNTIL DOMESTIC LOG SHORTAGE IS SATISFIED.
MINISTER ACCUED LOGGERS OF BEING UNWILLING TO SELL TO LOCAL MARKET AND SAID TIMBER BOARD AND FORESTRY DEPARTMENT ADMINSTRATING M$2 MILLION REVOLVING FUND TO BUY UP SUPPLIES. MONEY COLLECTED FROM SAWMILLERS AND PLYWOOD MANUFACTURERS TO BACK THEIR CLAIMS THAT LOG SHORTAGE EXISTS IN WEST MALAYSIA.
IN RELATED ANNOUNCEMENT, TAIB SAID DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY TO GIVE GREATER EMPHASIS TO INITIATING INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF TIMBER BASED INDUSTRIES. ALL MANUFACTURERS AND PACKERS OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS FOR EXPORT WILL BE REQUIRED TO REGISTER WITH NEW MALAYSIAN TIMBER INDUSTRY BOARD AS SOON AS IT IS
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ESTABLISHED. REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO REGISTRATION NOW BEING PREPARED, AND IT IS EXPECTED THESE REGULATIONS WILL COME INTO FORCE IN AUGUST 1973.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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